

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 20, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

Mayor Wahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Sgt. Keefer, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. S. Pasceri was absent.

A motion was made to approve the June 15, 2010 Minutes as submitted. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council did not meet on July 6, 2010 as previously calendered due to 4th of July attendance conflicts.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

Public Safety Committee – Mrs. Strus, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, and Mr. Curtis

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Strus.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1048**, adopting the 2009 International Fire Code, as recommended by the Fire Marshall.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department June 2010 reports were received.
2. The June 2010 Public Works, Safety Minutes and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Thomlinson commented on the new format of the Public Works report, stating that she would like to see a column that breaks down and totals overtime hours worked in the Borough. Mrs. Aversa stated she would have the Finance Manager look into this.

It was announced the Sgt. and Mrs. Borkowski participated in the 65 mile Tour de Shore bike-a-thon. There being nothing further, it was moved the report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Maxion, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Amento, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Maxion.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. A memorandum outlining recommended language offered by the EAC for use in creating a Wetlands Ordinance was sent to the Planning Commission.
2. The Committee's remaining Friday night movie nights this summer are as follows: July 23rd (*Kung Fu Panda*) at Knights Park and August 27th (*Over the Hedge*) at Ricciardi Park.

Discussion ensued. It was announced that Coneheads would be providing free water ice for the crowd.

Ms. Maxion asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, and Mr. Curtis.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Amento.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization to award the bid for the removal of the floating cover on digester T-10, including inspection and resealing of the digester walls, to C&T Associates for the lowest, responsive bid of \$195,500.

2. Authorization to adopt **Resolution 2010-5** in support of the PA Stormwater Coalition to take action and work jointly with other municipalities to stop the costly proposed regulations.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Solicitor currently is reviewing Borough Code Chapter 20 (Solid Waste) and Ordinances on Solid Waste, Recycling, Leaf Waste Collection and Burn Ordinances to determine whether the Borough is in full compliance with Act 101 and Act 140. DEP states municipalities must be in full compliance by the end of 2010 or will be ineligible to receive 904 Recycling Performance Grant money.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Judy Baigis of Tennis Avenue asked if the burn ordinance specifically covered firepits, chiminea and table based barbecues. Code Enforcement Officer Ron Myers responded that code enforcement should be contacted as regards fire pits, and that all such burning activities should be situated at least ten feet from a building.

2. The Borough Manager has communicated with the DEP, on behalf of the Water Department and Borough Engineer that it must schedule as a high priority the review of the Borough's rehabilitation plans for Loch Alsh Reservoir, which was listed by the DEP as a high hazard dam. The Reservoir is an insurance liability. DEP states it will forward comments on the engineer's plan within two to three weeks. The Borough has stated to the DEP that it has every intention to solicit bids and complete the rehabilitation project this calendar year.
3. The June 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.

Mr. Amento asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairperson

Committee Members: Mr. S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, and Ms. Tomlinson.

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Kenney.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consideration that **JUNE** invoices in the amount of **\$610,795.71** be paid as follows: General (**\$172,642.87**); Street Lights (**\$20,807.55**); Fire (**\$4,740.62**); Parks & Rec. (**\$6,644.95**); Water (**\$98,488.96**); Sewer (**\$131,126.89**); WWTP (**\$175,963.32**); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (**\$380.05**) and with no voided checks.

2. Consideration to award the bid for the Revitalization Grant to install decorative streetlights on Butler from Lindenwold to Bethlehem Pike to lowest, responsive bidder Carr & Duff with a bid amount of \$234,510.00. This Ambler Streetscape project grant of \$315,000 includes purchase of streetlights (\$93,958.20) and installation, with 10% matching funds budgeted by the Borough.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's June report was reviewed.
2. The Planning Commission is reviewing the Sign Ordinance for possible amendments to building setback, sign height and neon or florescent lighting. A draft proposed Downtown Commercial ordinance amendment was received from the Solicitor providing language for an ordinance prohibiting in all zoning districts a building from having an unusual appearance such as that of an object or product that might be sold in the building.
3. A request was received recommending that the Zoning Ordinance for MR-Mixed Residential Dwelling Units be changed to include a maximum impervious coverage per dwelling type.
4. The Planning Commission will review the Parking Ordinance to identify a need for possible amendments to be drafted which would allow inclusion of metered parking in parking calculations for businesses in the Downtown Commercial District.
5. The Ambler TRID draft report was received.
6. The Borough is looking for a resident interested in serving on a committee to evaluate and make recommendations on the Borough's current pension plan.
7. An update on the status of design plans for the proposed parking deck at Lindenwold Avenue and Race Street has been provided this evening.

Discussion ensued. Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty stated two quotes have been obtained which would include evaluation by structural engineers of the existing retaining wall, preliminary design, design and construction services. The quotes were \$88,400 and \$145,000. Traffic, environmental and geotech studies would add an additional \$8,500, although Mr. Dougherty stated he doubted that traffic and environmental studies were necessary. Mr. Amento stated his concern about obstructed views from Race Street residents. Mrs. Aversa stated that \$200,000 remains in a revitalization grant and that she would determine whether these funds could be applied to these engineering costs.

8. A memorandum was received in reference to the culvert work the EPA intends to perform at the Kane Core site. Solicitor Bresnan will be meeting with the EPA.

Discussion ensued. It was agreed by Council that a letter to the EPA should be drafted outlining the Borough's position on this issue, specifically that remediation should include the leveling and removal of asbestos piles.

9. Staff currently is reviewing a file provided by our tax collector Central Tax Bureau of PA, Inc., to verify that taxes are being properly collected.
10. The Borough has received a DCED grant of \$10,000 towards the proposed skateboard park at Knight Park.

Mr. Kenney asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mr. S. Paceri, Chairperson
Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, and Mrs. Strus

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mr. G. Pasceri.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. Staff will be meeting over the next few months to determine the impact new Health Care Reform requirements will have on the Borough's health insurance policies. DVIT will send an information packet.

Mr. G. Pasceri asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Strus moves:

Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1048**, adopting the 2009 International Fire Code, as recommended by the Fire Marshall. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening states Ms. Maxion.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Amento moves:

Recommend awarding the bid for the removal of the floating cover on digester T-10, including inspection and resealing of the digester walls, to C&T Associates for the lowest, responsive bid of \$195,500. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-5** in support of the PA Stormwater Coalition to take action and work jointly with other municipalities to stop the costly proposed regulations. Seconded. Carried.

Finance & Planning Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

Recommend that **JUNE** invoices in the amount of **\$610,795.71** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend awarding the bid for the Revitalization Grant to install decorative streetlights on Butler from Lindenwold to Bethlehem Pike to lowest, responsive bidder Carr & Duff with a bid amount of \$234,510.00. Seconded. Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening states Mr. G. Pasceri:

There being no further business, Mr. Isabella moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler